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Wednesday, February 06, 2008

Fire board, citizens meet with state

Wednesday, February 06, 2008

A pair of local emergency services leaders and several Brown County residents met with an Indiana Department of Homeland Security representative recently to review state requirements for emergency medical services and to review EMS certifications for area fire departments.

Jeff McCabe, chairman of the Brown County Fire Protection District Board, and board member Lynn Shaw, met with Sherrie Crain, EMS Operations Director for IDHS, on Thursday, January 31.

According to a press release from the fire district board, Ms. Crain "was extremely helpful with her interpretation and clarification of the document Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission Rules

and Regulations 2007."

She answered questions and offered guidance to Mr. McCabe regarding "the further development (of) an EMS system for the Brown County Fire Protection District, which is an element of the comprehensive plan being developed by the district board," the release continued.

Ms. Crain "stressed the importance of 'putting together a plan for the future that addresses both funding and personnel,'" the release stated, and "recommended close coordination with her office, as well as Columbus Regional Hospital's Emergency Services Director and the provider units' medical directors."

"The Fire Protection Merit Board of Trustees is currently working with the Indiana office of EMS Operations to update and review firefighter and department certifications, along with other important records currently on file at the Indianapolis office," the release concluded.

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11:30 a.m.: Alexandria coping with floodwaters

Firefighters in Alexandria are currently assessing the dike at Pipe Creek. Several nearby roads have been closed this morning due to flooding and Mayor Jack Woods says flooding will only worsen if the dike cannot hold the water back.

"If Pipe Creek goes over the dike, we're going to have major flooding," Woods said.

Flooding has closed five Alexandria roads so far, including several points along State Road 9. Both Washington and John Street are closed as they intersect with S.R. 9 and the intersection of Chestnut Road and Berry Street has also been shut down.

Area businesses have not yet been affected by flood waters but Woods warns that the Village Pantry on State Road 9 is bracing for the flood as water inches closer to the entrance of the convenience store. Employees are now working to pile sandbags on the premises while moving store merchandise away from the path of the flooding.

The Alex Street Department has sandbags for residents while the water department is offering sand and shovels at their location.

The mayor is hopeful that the dike will not be compromised. In the past hour, Pike Creek has gone down 1/2 inch, a sign that waters may be receding.

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3:30 p.m.: High water prompts voluntary evacuations in 2 Indiana counties

DELPHI, Ind. (AP) — Officials in two Indiana counties were urging people who live along the Tippecanoe River to evacuate Tuesday.

Heavy rains overnight prompted officials to open the floodgates on Carroll County's Oakdale dam, releasing water at over 18,000 cubic feet per second, according the Sheriff's Department.

Those downstream of the dam were being asked to leave voluntarily, said Carroll County Emergency Management director Dave McDowell.

"We began warning some of the residents early last evening when we got word from the National Weather Service that we were going to have lots of rain," McDowell said. "Early this morning Carroll County Sheriff's deputies began driving up and down the roads waking people up with sirens and public address announcements."

McDowell said many people were still out of the area due to the January flooding.

In White County, emergency officials were calling for the evacuation of Diamond Point downstream of the Norway Dam due to rising floodwaters.

The American Red Cross is setting up evacuation centers in Delphi and Monticello.

Many of January's flood victims still trying to rebuild now face high water again, although officials do not expect it to be as bad.

Donna Marshall, who lives just below Oakdale Dam, told the Journal & Courier of Lafayette that she had nightmares overnight after seeing flash flood warnings on television.

"I didn't sleep good. ... I kept thinking I was hearing water under the house. Of course, I didn't," Marshall said. "I didn't realize how much the last one affected me. I kept thinking we were going to get swept off."

Authorities in several other northern Indiana counties have closed roads due to high water. Flood

warnings and watches were issued for much of the state as storms bringing heavy rain were expected to move through.

President Bush declared nine northern Indiana counties, including Carroll, disaster areas due to flooding from heavy rains in January.

Flooding last month killed three people, including two children, and caused more than \$33 million damage to hundreds of homes.

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Super Tuesday Weather Could Snarl Vote

1 day ago

DELPHI, Ind. (AP) — Thunderstorms and snowstorms spread across the eastern half of the nation Tuesday, making travel miserable for voters in states holding primaries and causing flooding that chased some people from their homes in Indiana.

It was the second evacuation in less than a month for some Indiana residents.

Snow spread out of Colorado on a path across the central Plains and was likely to reach the upper Great Lakes by nightfall. Up to 11 inches of snow was possible in parts of Wisconsin.

In warmer air, a band of rain and thunderstorms extended from Oklahoma up the Ohio Valley to New York state.

Snow or rain fell during the morning in parts of Super Tuesday states Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York and Oklahoma.

That band of stormy weather was headed toward the Southeast, with a threat of damaging wind, hail and a chance of tornadoes in places, worrying Tennessee's election coordinator.

"You never know what type of weather issue you may have," said Brook Thompson.

It could be much worse. Voters heading to party caucuses in Alaska faced lows of 50 degrees below zero, with more than a foot of new snow in Juneau, the state's capital.

Officials in two northwest Indiana counties urged people who live along the Tippecanoe River to evacuate Tuesday after heavy rain fell during the night.

"Early this morning Carroll County Sheriff's deputies began driving up and down the roads waking people up with sirens and public address announcements," said Carroll County Emergency Management director Dave McDowell.

McDowell said many people were still out of the area because of January flooding that killed three people and caused more than \$33 million damage. Others had returned but were leaving again.

Residents were urged to leave homes downstream from Carroll County's Oakdale Dam, where flood gates were opened early Tuesday to release rising water. One of those residents, Donna Marshall, said she had nightmares after seeing warnings on television Monday night.

"I didn't realize how much the last one affected me. I kept thinking we were going to get swept off," Marshall said.

High water closed roads in other parts of northern Indiana and flood warnings and watches were in effect for much of the state.

Elsewhere, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson on Tuesday ordered more than a dozen National Guard troops to the mountain town of Chama, saying deep snow has blocked roads, damaged buildings and stranded residents in their homes

More than 33 inches of snow has fallen since Saturday at Chama, sitting at an elevation of 7,800 feet, the National Weather Service said.

On the Net:

- National Weather Service: <http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov>

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Last Updated: 2:53 pm | Wednesday, February 6, 2008

A long day of weather woes

Workers rescued in South Lebanon; historic home burns

BY QUAN TRUONG | QTRUONG@ENQUIRER.COM

Tuesday's daylong rain dumped almost 2 inches on Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, triggered a mudslide in Cincinnati and led to a water rescue in South Lebanon.

And in Newport, lightning was blamed for a fire that caused \$20,000 in damage to a historic home.

To cap off the day, a tornado watch was issued Tuesday night that extended until 2 a.m. today for Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Southeast Indiana because of severe thunderstorms and a cold front that were expected overnight. The same areas continue under a flood watch until 9 a.m. today.

High water washed out a culvert and trapped two workers in South Lebanon Tuesday, while the mudslide in Columbia Tusculum buried a car and closed off an East Side Cincinnati street for several hours.

Two workers upgrading the Warren County water system were trapped around 1 p.m. when the culvert washed out near the Little Miami River by Railroad and Main streets.

The men, whose names were not released, are employees of the Danis Corp., said Fire Chief Bob Napier. Four other departments helped South Lebanon crews rescue the men in about 90 minutes. The men were taken to the hospital and should recover, firefighters said.

Later in the day, a mudslide in the 500 block of Delta Avenue led to the collapse of a private retaining wall. A tree came down with the debris, toppling onto a parked car around 3:40 p.m.

"If it rains more, it could lead to the deterioration of that hillside," said Cincinnati District Fire Chief Thomas Lakamp. "There are a lot of 100-year-old retaining walls in the city and over time, it happens."

The house on the hillside is vacant, Lakamp said, and building engineers determined it was structurally sound.

Delta Avenue was closed for several hours near Golden Avenue as crews worked to clean up the debris. The tree that collapsed was sawed into pieces and removed before the car could be towed away.

Officers continued to monitor the area in case the night's continuous rain brought down any more mud, Lakamp said.

Earlier in the morning, lightning was blamed for a fire that broke out around 6:30 a.m. in the 400 block of Washington Avenue in Newport's East Row Historic District. No one was injured. The house dates to the late 1800s, owner Paul Baker Sr. said.

Rain continued through the night and could last today, according to the National Weather Service. There was a 40 percent chance of showers. Temperatures will peak again in the 50s or 60s but are expected to fall into the 40s by late afternoon.

Staff writers Janice Morse and Amanda Van Benschoten contributed.

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Rains Bring Warnings_ Watches

02/06/2008 05:48:22

DAYTON, Ohio -- Rain has pounded the Miami Valley the last couple of days.

Unofficially, Stormcenter 7 meteorologist Rich Wirdzek indicates the southern part of the Miami Valley may have seen one and a half inches of rainfall over the last 24 hours.

The National Weather Service says thunderstorms dumped an inch of rain since midnight and another inch may be possible by later this morning. We are told the farther north you go, the greater the amounts of rain that fell overnight.

That's why we have some weather warnings and watches still in effect. There is a flood warning for Auglaize and Mercer counties in effect until 6:15 this morning. A flood warning also remains in effect for Wayne (Indiana), Darke and Shelby counties until 6:30 this morning.

We have a specific river flood warning for the Great Miami River at Sidney & and the area south of Miamisburg until tonight. Overall we have a flood watch through 9 this morning for entire area.

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Carroll County Comet

Commissioners declare emergency for flooding...again

Flooding forces evacuation

By Debbie Lowe Staff writer

According to Carroll County Emergency Management Agency Director Dave McDowell, commissioners declared an emergency in Carroll County due to flooding of the Tippecanoe River in the past 24 hours. McDowell said Tuesday afternoon that the county had not had the opportunity to develop an early warning system for another flood before Tuesday morning. However, he said he met with sheriff Tony Burns Monday afternoon after a telephone conference with the National Weather Service and two calls from NIPSCO.

Burns decided to send deputies to patrol the most likely flood areas overnight. By 7 a.m. Tuesday, deputies were alerting residents along some county roads with the public address systems and sirens from their cars.

According to a press release from McDowell, "as of 2 p.m. Tuesday, Carroll County has declared a Flood Emergency. Residents are warned of high waters along the Tippecanoe River, with flooding in areas previously flooded in January. The National Weather Service expects more rain and snow...which raises the possibility that flooding could worsen before it gets better. Residents are strongly urged to leave flood-prone areas. Residents needing shelter are welcome at the Red Cross emergency shelter at the First Presbyterian Church in Delphi, 213 S. Indiana St. Those needing evacuation from flooded areas should contact the Sheriff's Department at 911 or (765) 564- 2413. To date the sheriff's department has evacuated less than ten residents. Many residents are still out of their homes from the earlier flood."

McDowell can be reached at 101 W. Main St., Room 1-B Delphi (in the basement of the courthouse), at dmcdowell@cacoshrf.com or by calling (765) 564-4243.

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Carroll County Comet

The ins and outs of getting help

By Debbie Lowe Staff writer

The amount of disaster relief information swirling around the county right now is staggering. Some of it is old news, some of it is rumor and some seems like the right information. Now that rain has come back to the region, swelling the rivers and forcing evacuation again, the situation could seem almost hopeless...but it is not.

Flooding occurred Tuesday at Horseshoe Bend, Tecumseh Bend, below Oakdale Dam, at Sleepy Hollow and Tippecanoe Ranch Estates, according to Carroll County Emergency Management Agency Director Dave McDowell. He said the county has not had an opportunity to develop an early warning system since the last flooding, but the sheriff's department stepped in to travel roads alerting residents of the flood danger.

Many in and out of the community are working to help those in need and provide quality information to property owners and those displaced by either flood.

President Bush declared Carroll County as a disaster area last week which then released funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help property owners rebuild, displaced renters find housing and government entities recover money spent to haul debris, repair roads and pay employees overtime.

FEMA opened an office in Delphi today, Wednesday, to see clients immediately. The Disaster Recovery Center is located at the Monroe St. Gym, 210 High St. Wednesday hours are 3 to 7 p.m. Thereafter the center will be open every day, including weekends, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.

The center is sponsored by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Melynda Petrie, FEMA spokesperson, said *Comet* Tuesday that flood victims need to register with FEMA prior to going to the disaster recovery center. She said registration can be made by calling (800) 621-3362 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by going online at www.fema.gov.

Petrie recommended victims have pertinent information ready when they make the call or visit the Web site. Victims should give their legal name, current telephone number and social security number. They should have a list of damages ready, the name of their insurance carrier and their policy number. Being able to provide bank account coding for direct deposit will shorten the time financial assistance is received she said.

Petrie said when a victim registers, they will be given a registration number. That number will be useful when visiting the disaster recovery center. After visiting the center, victims will be contacted to arrange for a FEMA inspection of their property and belongings. In most cases, financial assistance will arrive in seven to 10 days after the inspection according to Petrie.

FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Mike Smith recommended in a press release victims register with FEMA as soon as possible.

"Don't prejudice your eligibility," Smith said. "If you think you have damage related to the storm, register with FEMA. Even if you don't have all the necessary information or it was lost in the flooding. It's important that all residents get the assistance available to them as quickly as possible."

Congressman Joe Donnelly led the charge to expedite assistance to Carroll County first by meeting with local leaders and residents, then working with the Gov. Mitch Daniels to draft a request for a disaster declaration from President George Bush and finally by taking the lead in the congressional delegation to address the issue with the president requesting quick and positive action. Donnelly told the *Comet* Tuesday he would stay in contact with the residents of Carroll County. He emphasized his Logansport office staff is ready to assist those who need help to overcome barriers and get the help they need. That phone number is (574) 753-2671. Residents can visit Donnelly's Web site at www.donnelly.house.gov for additional flood-related information.

"We're here to serve the people of Carroll County," Donnelly said. "Whatever people need, we will help them. If they need a meeting with FEMA and can't get that set up, I want them to call my office and we will help them get through this."

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Carroll County Comet

Unexpected bridge costs socked to county

By Debbie Lowe Staff writer

Flood update

Francis reported the highway department made 162 trips with debris to various landfills. The cost so far to dump the refuse is \$10,791. Fuel costs have not been computed.

Francis said he will ask the council for an additional appropriation to pay the dump fees until reimbursement is possibly received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

It was determined by consensus that Feb. 8 will be the last day the department will haul debris to a landfill.

"I think you've done an outstanding job," Brown said. "But it can't go on forever."

Flood damage assessments

As opposed to what was previously reported, county assessor Doris McLeland advised property reassessments for flood damaged buildings and land would be for the 2007 assessment, pay 2008, tax year. McLeland was given permission to request a transfer of \$12,000 to hire a firm to provide the work.

McLeland said the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance informed her office of the correct procedure. She said it was clear that the reassessments would be for 2007.

DLGF Field Representative Steve McKinney agreed with McLeland and told the *Comet* Monday afternoon that IC 6- 1.1-4-11 permits a form of disaster relief for these types of events. He said the next reassessment date is in March so technically, the recent flood occurred in 2007 for assessment purposes. He said all adjustments are to be made by Dec. 31, 2008.

McKinney urged anyone with flood damage to call (888) 739-9826 to request a form or go to the Web site at [www.dlgrf.com](#) and click on 'forms' for a download. The document should then be sent to the county assessor's office on the first floor of the courthouse.

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Carroll County Comet

Red Cross emergency shelter opens in Delphi Comet staff report

Flooding along the Tippecanoe River Tuesday is forcing evacuations in Carroll County.

The Tippecanoe County Chapter of the American Red Cross opened an emergency shelter for residents affected by the flooding at the First Presbyterian Church in Delphi at 213 S. Indiana St. Emergency aid and assistance, along with food and supplies, will be made available to flood victims at this shelter.

Residents who need assistance evacuating their homes should call 911.

Those in need of flood recovery assistance can call 1-866- GETINFO (1-866-438-4636) for help. Residents affected by the flood are also encouraged to register with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security at 1-866-210-1925 on Monday- Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

All Red Cross disaster assistance is provided to victims free of charge - an outright gift made possible by the financial contributions of the American people. For more information regarding how individuals and families can prepare for disasters, visit www.redcross.org or contact the local Red Cross chapter.

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Carroll County Comet

Busy beginning for Delphi police and fire By Debbie Lowe Staff writer

January held a lot of activity for residents throughout Carroll County. There was the flood. There was the snowstorm. And for two city departments there was a huge increase in their monthly activity.

"Those are real numbers," Delphi Police Chief Justin Darling told city council members at the Monday night meeting as they reviewed the January police statistical report. "Delphi officers have done a tremendous job in the past 30 days."

Darling explained that he directed officers to give written warnings rather than verbal ones. He said that move added a level of accountability to department activity.

According to Darling, officers have made additional contacts since the beginning of the year. The more contacts with the public led to more contacts with criminals, which resulted in significant increases in the number of traffic summons, warnings, misdemeanor arrests and reports, and felony and information reports from December and from one year ago.

City officers issued nine traffic summons in December and 27 in January. The number of warnings jumped from 25 to 131 in the same period. Misdemeanor arrests more than doubled. The detailed report can be viewed at the city building.

"We aren't out there just to get numbers," Darling clarified. "We are out there meeting and coming in contact with people to be proactive in our approach to crime prevention."

Fire chief John Patterson also reported a busy January. He said the number of man-hours fighting fires "was pretty high."

With only two minor injuries, the department's 29 firefighters utilized 485 hours fighting fires.

Patterson said the department is looking for additional firefighters. He said he would like to have between 32 and 35 personnel in the department.

Department reports

Street commissioner Aaron Lyons reported the city hauled 45 tons of flood debris to help the county highway department during the recent flood event. He said the department kept track of fuel costs with the hope of reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Wastewater superintendent Dick VanSickle said 120 biotons of solid waste was processed and hauled away in 2007.

Airport manager Brian Stirm said the runway lights were hit by lightening last week and are no longer operational. Due to the nature of the lighting it will be necessary for a professional in the field to diagnose and repair them. The cost should be covered by insurance.

Stirm reported the trolley drove 1,899 miles and had 1,521 riders in 2007. A different engine is scheduled to be transplanted into the vehicle in February.

Other business

Council approved \$29,636 for the remainder of the roofing project on the city building.

Council representative on the North West Solid Waste District Kyle Germond reported the city was encouraged to utilize all of the \$20,000 allocated grant for recycling activities.

Daryl Smith of the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation provided a brief review of the St. Claire Group Strategic Directions report. He thanked council members for the financial support from the city for the study and said electronic copies of the report can be obtained by calling the EDC office at (765) 564- 2060.

Mayor's report

"It has been a busy 30 days," mayor Randy Strasser reported.

He said computer and telephone issues plagued the city building but employees were working to immediately correct problems that arose. The Web site is being improved and will provide additional content.

Strasser said departments will work on 2009 budget needs and requests in April and May to aid council members during the June budget hearings.

A policies and procedures committee and a finance committee are being established. Council members Danny Sterrett and Carolyn Pearson, along with Strasser and clerk-treasurer Janice Roe will serve on the finance committee. Several department heads will be asked to serve on the policy committee.

The next meeting will be March 3 at 7 p.m. Board of works will meet at 6:30 p.m.

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Carroll County Comet

Emergency Food Stamps available for victims of flooding

Residents in 9 counties may qualify for assistance

Comet staff report

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) announced Tuesday that they have received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue emergency food stamps to residents of Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe and White counties that suffered major losses in the January flooding. The Disaster Food Stamp Program (DFSP) may apply to all residents affected by the disaster, including people not currently receiving State assistance.

"The emergency measures allow our local Division of Family Resources offices to determine eligibility for victims based on available income, minus shelter and disaster related expenses,"

said Zach Main, director of the Division of Family Resources."All resources except cash on hand and bank accounts will be excluded from the eligibility determination."

County residents who are not usually eligible for food stamps may temporarily qualify for DFSP if their home or belongings were damaged or destroyed, if they have un-reimbursed disaster-related expenses or if they have lost income, food or money as a result of the flooding. Families will have five days to apply beginning Feb. 6, 2008. The benefit period extends from Jan. 7 through Feb. 6, 2008. When applying, applicants should bring a state driver's license or other form of identification, such as work or school ID, birth certificate, wage stub and a document that verifies their home address. Applicants may be asked for their Social Security Number as well. Please note, persons who purposely provide wrong information on a food stamp application may be denied food stamps and legal action may be taken. For further details on eligibility or to submit your application, contact your local county Office of Family Resources, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Local Family Resource offices, where victims may apply for DFSP include:

Carroll County OFR, 6931 W 300 North, Suite B, Delphi, (800) 403-0864

Cass County OFR, 300 East Broadway, Logansport, (800) 403-0864

Tippecanoe County OFR, 111 North 4th Street, Lafayette, (765) 742-0400

White County OFR, 816 Fisher Street, Monticello, (800) 403-0864

For more information on FSSA, go to: www.in.gov/fssa.

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Carroll County Comet

Status quo - it's not good enough any more

Carroll County taxpayers have been given a number of reasons why the county is in a financial bind. Loss of the inventory tax (which by the way will be first felt this year), EMS (taking on Yeoman and Burlington), highway department (rising fuel costs and outdated equipment), sheriff's department (meth and the need for more officers), fees that have not kept pace with inflation, and a county home that taxpayers subsidize to a tune of nearly half a million dollars a year - just to name a few.

And all of these reasons may be valid, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that if you spend more than you take in, for whatever the reason, you are eventually going to be in

trouble. And for four of the past five years, Carroll County has spent more than it has received in revenue.

It's unrealistic to expect the riverboat gambling money to subsidize that which is lost. The county council has already made an interdepartmental loan from cum bridge for \$675,000 and could possibly make another interdepartmental loan from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for \$450,000. If you factor in that the 2008 budget will need to be trimmed by nearly \$1 million and approximately 300 flood ravaged homes could be devalued, reducing the amount of property tax coming to the county in 2008, our financial woes will continue.

This morning's county council work session to meet with a representative of the Department of Local Government Finance to develop a plan to reverse poor money management practices is long overdue. We hope every commissioner and department head is in attendance.

From here on out, every government employee must scrutinize expenditures. Is it a need versus a want? These are not just words. This is the brutal reality. If departments don't take care of themselves, county leaders will have to help them make the right decisions.

And taxpayers need to understand that some of the services and expectations of the past, may no longer be realistic.

This county must start living within its means and not set budgets that have no way of being financed.

To do this, it's going to be painful. Some projects may not get off the ground; some entities may have to find alternate funding sources; and some employees may have to find another job. But with a lot of cooperation and teamwork, Carroll County can turn itself around. The finished product will just be learner and hopefully, smarter.

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Severe storms last night in Indiana may have included tornados

[YouNewsTV™](#)

Story Published: Feb 6, 2008 at 7:55 AM EST
Story Updated: Feb 6, 2008 at 11:47 AM EST

By Chris Daniels

The National Weather Service is investigating storm damage in Putnam, Greene, Jackson and Decatur counties to see if any tornadoes touched down. No major injuries were reported.

In Putnam County west of Indianapolis, the storm tore the roof off a fire station in Bainbridge and destroyed its radio tower. Barns and mobile homes also were damaged, along with several

utility trailers.

In Greene County, southwest of Bloomington, the sheriff's department said roofs were blown off several houses in Bloomfield. Officers reported a large amount of debris in trees as well as downed trees and power lines. The Sheriff's department says the damage resembled that of a tornado.

Meanwhile, forecasters with Indiana's NewsCenter say another low pressure system, and another separate weather disturbance will bring additional rain to the area today. An area of moderate rain moved through Tuesday night. Some severe weather had occurred, but was confined to Central and Southern Indiana.

Today rain will increase from the Southwest, but the rain is expected to stay on the light side. As the low pressure system moves further to the east, slightly colder air will spill in. This will change the rain over to some light snow, but not much accumulation is expected. Travel may be difficult from South Bend to Chicago today, where heavy snow is expected.

Most of Northern Indiana remain under flood warnings today, where some street flooding has already been reported. Many rivers will crest above flood stage during the next two days. Indiana's Newscenter will continue to monitor this weather system with our exclusive PINPOINT VIPIR HD.

The Office of Homeland Security has canceled the February Emergency Warning Siren test that was scheduled for noon today due to the weather.

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journalgazette.net
600 W. Main St. Fort Wayne, Ind. 46802

Melting, rainfall swamp streets

By Megan Hubartt

The Journal Gazette

Heavy rain and melting snow caused high water and flooding throughout Fort Wayne and the region late Tuesday.

The Fort Wayne Police Department reported streets being barricaded because of rising water and flooding.

No streets were confirmed closed, but signs and barricades were erected on dozens of streets to warn drivers of flooding, dispatchers said.

Lake Avenue and North Anthony Boulevard were among the many areas where high water was reported.

The National Weather Service of Northern Indiana issued a flood warning for Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Noble, Wells and Whitley counties Tuesday.

Widespread flooding, especially near streams and low-lying areas, was expected Tuesday because more than 2 inches of rain fell Monday night in addition to snow melting.

Meteorologists were predicting 1 to 2 inches more of rainfall Tuesday night, which was expected to exacerbate flooding problems, the National Weather Service said.

mhubartt@jg.net

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Monday, February 04, 2008

Flooding a possibility in Ottawa and Fort Jennings

Monday, February 04, 2008

PUTNAM COUNTY - The National Weather Service in Northern Indiana has issued a food warning for Putnam County as minor flooding is expcted.

The warning is for the Auglaize River near Fort Jennings from Wednesday afternoon to Friday evening.

As of 1 p.m. Tuesday the stage was 9 feet and rising, according to the National Weather Service.

The NWS predicts the river will crest near 15.8 feet around 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6 but not before rising above flood stage early Wednesday morning.

Flood stage is 13.0 feet.

The river is predicted to fall below flood stage around 10 p.m. Thursday night.

A flood warning is also in place for the Blanchard in Ottawa.

Water is expected to rise above flood stage Wednesday afternoon.

The warning is in effect from Wednesday afternoon until Sunday evening.

At 9 a.m. Tuesday the stage was 13.2 feet and rising.

Minor flooding is in the forecast.

Flood stage for the Blanchard River is 23 feet.

It is expected to crest near 26.4 feet around 1 a.m. Friday and fall below flood stage around 7 p.m. on Saturday.

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INDYSTAR★COM Indiana's No. 1 local media site

2:16 PM February 5, 2008

Flood waters eye White, Carroll counties

By **BRIAN WALLHEIMER** and **CURT SLYDER**

Lafayette Journal and Courier

February 5, 2008

Many of January's flood victims are still trying to put their lives back together. Now, they're facing the waters again. Donna Marshall, who lives just below Oakdale Dam, said she had nightmares Monday night and this morning after seeing flash flood warnings on the television.

"I didn't sleep good last night. I kept thinking I was hearing water under the house. Of course, I didn't," Marshall said. "I didn't realize how much the last one affected me. I kept thinking we were going to get swept off."

Emergency officials were calling for the evacuation of areas along the Tippecanoe River in Carroll and White counties this morning, as a combination of rapidly melting snow and significant overnight rainfall started leading to some flooding this morning.

According to the National Weather Service, it's not expected to be as bad as the record flooding that took place in January.

But officials in Carroll and White counties were still taking precautions. Dave McDowell, Carroll County Emergency Management director, said water was expected to rise into people's homes. But he was unsure how bad it would be. "We just don't know," he said this morning.

Evacuations were ordered for riverfront areas in the Diamond Point area in Monticello as well as Sleepy Hollow, Oakdale, Tippecanoe Ranch Estates, Horseshoe Bend and Tecumseh Bend below the Oakdale Dam.

Marshall and her husband didn't evacuate last time. Their house just below Oakdale Dam is two stories and sits on top of a garage. She said they still hadn't finished repairing the garage, though they did get a new water heater put in.

"I'm just going to keep an eye on it," Marshall said. "I'm going to get my stuff out of the garage and hope it doesn't get the new water heater."

Carol Middleton, who lives on Tecumseh Bend Road, said her husband was heading home this morning to check the water. She's at work and said she's overcome with emotion.

"I just feel so helpless right now, homeless even," Middleton said. "We haven't been back in our home since the last time. We're still staying with relatives."

Middleton said she had three feet of water in her home last month. She was surprised she got any since her house is higher than most in the area. "We never imagined we would have water in our home," Middleton said. The American Red Cross is setting up two evacuation centers:

- First Presbyterian Church, 213 S. Indiana St., Delphi.
- Lake Shafer Christian Center, 1765 N. West Shafer Drive, Monticello.

Gov. Mitch Daniels' office announced last week that he had received a letter from President Bush declaring a major disaster and making federal funding available in Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe and White counties.

Flooding that began Jan. 7 along the Tippecanoe River and other streams killed three people, including two children, and caused more than \$33 million in damage in the nine counties. More than 800 homes were damaged, half either destroyed or heavily marred, Daniels said in his Jan. 23 aid request to Bush.

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INDYSTAR★COM Indiana's No. 1 local media site
1:49 AM February 6, 2008

Tornadoes kill 23 in 4 states; wicked winds rake Indiana

By Jon Gambrell
Associated Press
February 5, 2008

ATKINS, Ark. — Tornadoes across four Southern states tore through homes, ripped the roof off a shopping mall and blew apart warehouses in a rare spasm of violent winter weather that killed at least 23 people and injured dozens more.

The twisters that slammed Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky were part of a line of storms that raged across the nation's midsection at the end of a day of Super Tuesday primaries in several states. Candidates including Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee even paused their victory speeches to remember the victims.

[CLICK HERE to hour-by-hour forecasts, radar and satellite maps and closings.](#)

A spectacular fire erupted at a natural gas pumping station northeast of Nashville that authorities could have been damaged by the storms, and an undetermined number of people were reported dead.

A couple and their 11-year-old daughter were killed in their home after a tornado touched down near the center of Atkins, a community of 3,000 along the Arkansas River in the central part of the state.

"This was an extraordinary night," said Gov. Mike Beebe. "When it's compounded by darkness, that makes it that much more difficult."

Emergency crews went door to door Tuesday night seeking other possible victims in Atkins, working amid a heavy scent from splintered pines. Power lines snaked along a street, and a deep-orange pickup truck rested on its side. A navy blue Mustang with a demolished front end was marked with spray paint to show it had been searched.

Outside one damaged home, horses whinnied in the darkness, looking up only when a flashlight reached their eyes. On Southeast Second Street, a ranch home stood unscathed across the street from a concrete slab that had supported the house where three people died.

The storms killed at least 11 people in Arkansas, eight in Tennessee and three in Kentucky, authorities said.

The power was knocked out briefly at a Little Rock convention hall that hosted an watch party for GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, a former Arkansas governor.

"While we hope tonight is a time for us to celebrate election results, we are reminded that nothing is as important as the lives of these fellow Arkansans, and our hearts go out to their families," Huckabee said.

At the W.J. Matthews Civic Center in Atkins, a shelter was empty except for a American Red Cross volunteers and a single touchscreen voting machine. The civic center had hosted an election precinct earlier Tuesday.

Cell phone pictures sent to television stations showed a dark, broad funnel approaching Atkins. Traffic was snarled on nearby Interstate 40, with tractor-trailers on their sides.

At least six tornadoes touched down in the 100 miles between Oxford, Miss., and Jackson, Tenn., according to the National Weather Service in Memphis, where deaths and damage were also reported.

One storm tore a large part of the north wall off Hickory Ridge Mall in Memphis. A few people north of the mall took shelter under a bridge and were washed away, but were pulled out of the Wolf River with only scrapes, said Steve Cole of the Memphis Police Department.

Later, the storms damaged a dormitory at Union University in Jackson, trapping at least three people who talked by phone to rescuers who were trying to dig them out. A 2003 tornado in Jackson killed 11 people and a 1999 twister killed nine.

In Arkansas, the Baxter County Sheriff's Office said debris, including parts of houses, blocked U.S. Highway 62. The town of Gassville was sealed off because of the possibility of gas leaks resulting in an explosion.

The three dead at Atkins were family members who died after their home took a direct hit, Pope County Coroner Leonard Krout said.

"Neighbors and friends who were there said, 'There used to be a home there,'" Krout said.

A tornado shredded warehouses in an industrial park in Southaven, in northern Mississippi, said Desoto County Sheriff's Department Cmdr. Steve Atkinson.

"It ripped the warehouses apart. The best way to describe it is it looks like a bomb went off," Atkinson said. "A lot of fire departments are here and we're searching each warehouse to see if there was anybody in there. It's going to be a time consuming thing and we'll probably be searching into the morning."

Officials do not know what started a fire late Tuesday at the Columbia Gulf Natural Gas pumping station near Green Grove, about 40 miles from Nashville. The fire could be seen in the night sky for miles around, with flames shooting "400, 500 feet in the air," said Tennessee Emergency Management spokesman Donnie Smith.

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February 6, 2008

Wild weather returns

State hit again with storms, flooding

By Kevin O'Neal

kevin.oneal@indystar.com

February 6, 2008

In January, people living along the Tippecanoe River were flooded out of their homes by a combination of snowmelt and heavy rain.

One month later, it's happening again, with more rain causing flooding in the area.

The weather hasn't spared Central Indiana, either, as storms smacked the area with heavy rain and a possible tornado Tuesday night.

Indiana's strangely volatile weather, which in the past month has seen swings from snow to thunderstorms, and tornadoes to snow and sleet, has moved back to an imitation of spring.

A wave of thunderstorms crossed Central Indiana on Tuesday, causing damage in Putnam County about 9:30 p.m. The Web site of the National Weather Service reported that U.S. 231 south of Greencastle was blocked by debris and that trailers, cars and trees were damaged at U.S. 231 and U.S. 36. There also was a report of a possible tornado west of Bainbridge.

Indiana State Police at the Putnamville post said buildings had been damaged in Bainbridge, including a fire station and a small restaurant.

About 9:45 p.m., sirens sounded in Indianapolis as a severe thunderstorm warning was issued, and the line of storms moved across the Hendricks County-Marion County line a few minutes later. However, there were no immediate reports of damage in Indianapolis.

Other watches and warnings were in effect for areas south and east of Marion County into early today.

Indianapolis got nearly an inch of rain during the day Tuesday, and there was a chance that the day could be the wettest of the year, exceeding the 1.41 inches of rain that fell Jan. 8.

The rain has led to flood warnings for most of Indiana. As happened in January, the largest flooding concerns are north of Lafayette.

"Folks haven't had a chance to recover from the last flood, so it's a double whammy," said Mark Kirby, director of the Tippecanoe County Emergency Management Agency.

Evacuations have started in White and Carroll counties. An emergency shelter had opened in Delphi, Kirby said.

Water flow at the Oakdale Dam on the Tippecanoe River was past flood stage Tuesday and expected to near major flood stage today, according to hydrologic measurements from the National Weather Service.

In Indianapolis, a water gauge on White River at 82nd Street showed that the river rose above the 10-foot flood stage Tuesday and was expected to crest at 16 feet Thursday.

The Marion County Emergency Management Agency said in a statement that severe flooding was not expected in Marion County.

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works was making sandbags available to residents in Ravenswood and Frog Hollow, as a precaution.

Eight skids of sandbags were being delivered to a school parking lot on North Crittenden Avenue in Ravenswood, and four skids of sandbags were going to the corner of Coffee Street and West Troy Avenue in Frog Hollow.

The weather patterns leading to the two floods are similar, according to the National Weather Service. While the Indianapolis area missed the brunt of the most recent snowstorm, melting snow that covered the hardest-hit areas is draining into and overflowing the Tippecanoe River and its tributaries.

The rain is ending the drought that extends back to the spring of 2007, Johnson said. January precipitation was 0.34 inches less than normal. February started with 0.2 inches of precipitation above normal, before Tuesday's rain.

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Tornado Watch for Central Indiana Through 2:00 a.m.

By Rob Wasson and wibc.com
2/5/2008

The National Weather Service has issued a Tornado Watch for portions of Indiana.

This watch is in effect until 2 am for the following counties: Hancock, Hendricks, Marion, Johnson, Morgan and Shelby.

Tornadoes, hail up to 2 inches in diameter, damaging winds up to 70 mph and dangerous lightning are all possible.

The National Weather Service has also issued a Flood Watch for all of central Indiana. This watch is in effect until Wednesday morning.

Heavy rainfall up to 3 inches is possible today and tonight. This could create flooding across the region especially along rivers, streams and low lying areas.

Unsettled weather will continue for the next several days with chances of rain and snow. Cold air will move down into Indiana on Wednesday. Rain could change to a brief period of light snow during the afternoon hours. Winds will be gusty at times up to 35 mph.

High pressure should give us a break with rain and snow Wednesday night and most of Thursday. Light snow will be possible again on Thursday night.

Friday looks to be dry during the daylight hours, but chances of rain and snow will return Friday night and Saturday.

Very cold, arctic air will move in this weekend on Saturday night and Sunday.

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High waters prompt two counties to evacuate

Posted: Feb 5, 2008 08:55 AM EST

Updated: Feb 5, 2008 12:44 PM EST

DELPHI, Ind. (WLF1) - Officials in two Indiana counties are asking people who live along the Tippecanoe River to evacuate.

Heavy rains overnight prompted officials to open the floodgates on Carroll County's Oakdale dam, releasing water at over 18,000 cubic feet per second. Those downstream of the dam are being asked to leave voluntarily.

Many people are still out of the area due to the January flooding.

In White County, emergency officials were calling for the evacuation of Diamond Point downstream of the Norway Dam due to rising floodwaters.

The American Red Cross has opened an emergency shelter in Delphi because of new flooding on the Tippecanoe River. Red Cross disaster volunteers are opening the shelter at the First Presbyterian Church at 213 S. Indiana Street in Delphi. The shelter is expected to be operational by noon on Tuesday.

Emergency aid, food and supplies will be available to flood victims at the shelter. People in need of flood recovery assistance are asked to call 1-866-GETINFO (4636). They are also encouraged to register with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security at 1-866-210-1925 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Authorities in several other northern Indiana counties have closed roads due to high water.

Current high water road closings:

STATE HWY:

6121 St Rd 25 N.

6700-blk SR 26 W

9700 blk SR 26 W

3200-blk SR 43 N

County Roads:

500 N/Kathy LN

500 N/E of 150

500 N/West of 43

500 N/East of 850 W

5400 blk 300 N

100 E/S of 800 S

500 E/between 450 N & SR 25

50 W/N of 650 N

S River Rd/ West of the Fort

150 W/N of 800 S

5400 blk E 300 N

Pretty Prarie

McCormick Rd S of 52-North of the S curves

- The AP Contributed to this report

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Officials warn of flooding following severe storms

Posted: Feb 6, 2008 07:06 AM EST

COVINGTON, Ind. (AP) - The National Weather Service is warning residents along the Wabash River to watch for flooding over the next two or three days.

The Wabash could rise to its highest level since January 2005. Hydrologist Al Shipe says significant flooding could occur between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

Up to three inches of rain and melting snow are causing flooding problems in some of the same areas of Indiana hit hard by flooding last month.

Fountain County emergency management officials were warning residents along the Wabash River that if the level continues to rise they may have to evacuate.

Officials in Carroll and White counties also urged people along the Tippecanoe to voluntarily evacuate their homes.

Several state roads are closed due to high water.

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BAINBRIDGE, Ind. (WISH) - Residents in the small town of Bainbridge are cleaning up this afternoon after powerful storms ripped through Tuesday night.

Bainbridge is about an hour west of Indianapolis in Putnam County.

The storms damaged homes, knocked down trees and power lines and badly damaged the Bainbridge fire station. Firefighters used to helping in emergencies, weren't used to being the emergency.

"We were actually going for a tree that was down just west of town, and imagine our surprise when we responded and this is what we found," said Assistant Fire Chief Rick Cope.

What they found was a roof completely torn off. It's now twisted in a nearby tree. The house next door and the van parked outside are now covered in siding.

Kyle Bannon and his father work on a farm behind the fire station. Their barn is also destroyed.

"The barn was built in 1890, so I guess it's withstood a lot, it finally had it's day last night I guess," said Bannon.

The barn and the roof of the fire station couldn't withstand the estimated 80 mile per hour winds that blew through around 9 p.m. last night.

By [Jeannie Crofts](#)
WISH-TV

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Residents brace for more flooding along Tippecanoe River

Posted: Feb 5, 2008 10:50 PM EST

Updated: Feb 6, 2008 05:59 AM EST

[Rich Van Wyk](#)/Eyewitness News

Carroll County - An all-day rain Tuesday on top of recently melted snow is increasing the threat of flooding in some parts of Indiana.

Some of the same riverside communities flooded a few weeks ago in north central Indiana are flooding again. A continuous and thundering torrent of water is pouring through the floodgates of the Oakdale Dam. Authorities are asking residents along the Tippecanoe River in White and Carroll counties to leave their homes as waters rise.

A number of the homes were so badly damaged in last month's floods, they are still empty. However, many families have already begun rebuilding.

"It's hard to handle," said Donna Cadwallander.

Donna and her husband, Roger, have already lost about everything. They've cleaned and gutted their home and received a building permit just as the river headed for their door again.

"It's heartbreaking," Roger Cadwallander said. "I really don't want to leave the river, but I really can't keep going through this."

When residents say they lost everything, they mean it. Piles of debris and personal belongings still line the streets from the last flood. Those floods hit nine counties, and damaged or destroyed more than 800 homes. Losses have been estimated at \$33 million.

Jim Beever has rolled up new insulation and removed his brand new furnace, trying to keep from losing even more to the river.

"I never give up," Beever said. "I keep moving on. It's all I can do."

Now all the residents can do is hope incoming storms aren't as bad as they fear. The Red Cross has set up a shelter in Delphi for residents who need somewhere to go.

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Residents assess storm damage; flooding woes continue

Posted: Feb 6, 2008 12:42 PM EST

Updated: Feb 6, 2008 02:19 PM EST

Carroll and Putnam Counties - Overnight storms are causing major problems for residents Wednesday. Some are having to evacuate for the second time in as many weeks due to flooding.

In many cases, residents had not yet returned to their flood-damaged homes when the call came to evacuate again. Emergency management officials say the Oakdale Dam in Carroll County is six feet below flood level seen in January. On Wednesday they opened the floodgates.

Putnam County was one of the hardest hit areas, where a sudden burst of straight line winds caused the same kind of damage expected from a tornado.

A radio tower toppled over and a trailer was blown across Highway 36 and into a ditch. The wind gusts blasted off the metal roof of the Bainbridge Fire Station. The first concern for the Volunteer Fire Department where to put all their equipment.

"Tomorrow we're expecting snow and you can't leave a truck full of water below 32 degrees, so you have to have trucks inside or you will have frozen tanks and pumps," said Jason Hartman, Bainbridge clerk-treasurer.

For now, fire trucks are sheltered at the community center and the nearby Greencastle Fire Department.

Daylight brought an unwelcome view of damage to the fire station. The roof is blown off and trees nearby were toppled over. Other buildings also suffered damage.

"This barn was completely redone by the Amish two years ago and it was in excellent shape. It was filled with farm machinery and it's demolished. There's nothing left to it," said a farmer.

Built the old fashioned way, with pegs instead of nails, the 118-year-old barn weathered many storms, but this one was the final blow. The farmer we spoke to did not think it would be replaced.

On a cold and rainy day, clean-up will have to wait. For now, the town is assessing the damage.

Most of the fire station's roof ended up in a tree, but sheets of metal were scattered all over town, with some at least two blocks away. The storm plastered insulation to the front of a house.

It's a big mess, but Bainbridge residents say they are thankful no one was hurt. Compared to the 48 deaths in violent tornadoes across four states to the south overnight, they likely feel they got off easy.

From the Associate Press:

In Greene County, southwest of Bloomington, the sheriff's department said roofs were blown off several houses in Bloomfield.

Officers reported a large amount of debris in trees as well as downed trees and power lines. The sheriff's department said the damage resembled that of a tornado.

An 80 mph wind gust was reported in Clinton in Vermillion County. Trees and power lines were reported down in Terre Haute.

The National Weather Service was investigating storm damage in Putnam, Greene, Jackson and Decatur counties to see if any tornadoes touched down. No major injuries were reported.

The storms followed unseasonably high daytime temperatures in the 60s, and were generated by the same system that produced tornadoes that were blamed for nearly 50 deaths in the South.

Rain up to 3 inches and melting snow are causing flooding problems in some of the same areas hit hard last month.

Fountain County emergency management officials went door-to-door warning residents along the Wabash River that if the level continues to rise they may have to evacuate.

"It is a situation that those people in that area should monitor closely in the next two days," said Al Shipe, a hydrologist with the weather service in Indianapolis. "If it does get 2 or 3 feet higher than it did in January, we're looking at significant flooding."

He said the flooding would be the worst between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

The Wabash swelled to just over 22 feet last month, and Shipe said the river would likely crest between 24 and 25 feet. It was approaching 20 feet by late Wednesday morning, he said.

The weather service said the Wabash could reach its highest flood level since January 2005 when it crested at 25.03 feet and that major flooding was expected along the Tippecanoe River.

The Wabash in 2005 broke through levees in at least two places in a rural area south of Terre Haute. In Sullivan County, several residents were flown by helicopter out of their homes because of flood water.

Indiana Conservation Officers were searching a quarry Wednesday for a vehicle that may have plunged into the icy water during the night south of Indiana 24 east of Kentland. Portions of four state roads in northwestern counties were closed due to high water, the state said.

Cresting on many of the rivers will occur over the weekend into next week, the weather service said.

Officials in Carroll and White counties in northern Indiana also urged people along the Tippecanoe to voluntarily evacuate their homes.

Compiled from reports by [Lynsay Clutter](#) and [Chris Proffitt](#). The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Flood update: High water reported; no roads closed, yet

STAFF REPORTS

February 5, 2008

Motorists are being advised to be cautious today because of water on the roads.

"High water is everywhere," said Ed Ward of the Tippecanoe County Highway Department this morning.

High water barricades have been placed on many county roads.

"So far, no roads are closed," he said. "That might change later on this evening when the storms come through.

"This will get worse, once the rain comes. The ground is frozen and the water has nowhere to go."

Ward said water in the saturated ground is "trickling across and ponding on one side of the lane."

He said tonight will be a challenge for motorists.

"Leave early and be patient," he said.

There are high water signs on "five or six roads" in Benton County.

"Nothing is closed, but the ditches are filled already," says Kenny Robertson, supervisor of the Fowler subdistrict of the Indiana Department of Transportation.

"People need to be cautious. I don't foresee closing anything, even (State Road) 225. But it depends on how much rain we get."

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Flood disaster recovery centers to open Wednesday

STAFF REPORTS

February 5, 2008

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security will open several Disaster Recovery Centers Wednesday in Carroll, Jasper, White and two other counties for victims of the January floods.

The centers are in response to President Bush's declaration last week that Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe and White counties suffered major disasters.

Question: What can these sites do?

Answer: The centers' staff will be able to answer questions about registration for disaster assistance and hazard mitigation, help with disaster loan applications and provide information and contacts for other programs.

SBA representatives will meet individually with each applicant to provide assistance in completing disaster loan applications, and to accept completed disaster loan applications. Returning the applications is an essential part of the disaster recovery process even for individuals who do not want a loan.

Q: Can I just show up, or do I need to register in advance?

A: You can just show up. But residents are encouraged to register prior to visiting a Disaster Recovery Center.

Homeowners, renters and business owners affected by the recent severe storms and flooding are encouraged to register for assistance by calling the FEMA telephone registration line at (800) 621-3362. The line is answered 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time seven days a week.

For speech- or hearing-impaired applicants, the TTY number is (800) 462-7585. Applicants also may register on-line at www.fema.gov.

Q: What kind of help can I get?

A: SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations for losses not fully covered by insurance. The SBA may loan up to \$200,000 to repair or replace homes and up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Up to \$1.5 million is available for uncompensated business disaster losses.

Residents and business owners can receive information about SBA disaster loans and help with the application process by calling the SBA at (800) 659-2955 or visiting the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov.

Q: Where are the centers?

A: Fixed Disaster Recovery Centers will open at three locations Wednesday. Opening day hours are 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. local time. Thereafter, the hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday until further notice.

The fixed locations are:

- Delphi Middle School Gym, 210 High St., Delphi.
- The Roy & Fern Tobias Center Library, 105 N. Ohio St., Remington.
- White County Emergency Management Agency Office, 315 N. Illinois St., Monticello.

Additionally, mobile DRCs will open in Elkhart and Fulton counties Wednesday through close of business Sunday. Announcements of mobile DRC locations for the following week will be forthcoming.

The hours will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. local time on Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

Mobile centers also will open Wednesday at the following locations:

- Elkhart Township Fire Dept. Station 3, 116 S. Greene Road, Goshen.
- WTH Engineering, 821 E. Ninth St., Rochester.

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Flood update: Heavy rains possible tonight

STAFF REPORTS

February 5, 2008

The National Weather Service is predicting heavy rains and possibly severe weather tonight and overnight for Lafayette and surrounding counties.

Mark Kirby of Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency said he and his staff will be "keeping an eye on it all night."

A flood warning remains in effect until 10:15 a.m. Wednesday for Tippecanoe, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Warren and Montgomery counties in the Lafayette area.

A flood warning means that flooding is imminent or has been reported. Stream rises will be slow and flash flooding is not expected. However, all interested parties should take necessary precautions immediately.

Tonight's forecast: Periods of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Areas of dense fog before 1 a.m. Steady temperature around 42. Northeast wind between 13 and 17 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100 percent. New rainfall amounts between one and two inches possible.

Wednesday's forecast: Rain and snow showers likely before 1 p.m., then a chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 42. North northwest wind between 10 and 14 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

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Flash flood warnings in four area counties, Benton County issues travel warning

Tippecanoe, northern Fountain, Warren and Jasper counties affected

STAFF REPORTS

February 5, 2008

Tippecanoe, Warren, Jasper and northern Fountain counties are all under flash flood warnings, according to the National Weather Service.

The warning advises that strong storms could cause rapid flooding in those areas.

The flash flood warning is in effect until 1 a.m. Wednesday in Tippecanoe, Warren and northern Fountain counties. It is in effect until 1:45 a.m. central time Wednesday for Jasper County.

Benton County also has declared a level 2 travel advisory for drivers until at least noon Wednesday.

Due to heavy rains, high water is collecting on roadways and flash flooding of waterways and flooding of already swollen streams are expected.

Drivers should travel with extreme caution and should expect to encounter water on roads.

Benton emergency management cautions drivers not to drive through moving water.

The previous flooding and variety of winter weather we have recently encountered combined with this event may rapidly damage weaken roadbeds.

For updates, check jconline.com.

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People with basements beware of heavy rains

Local water restoration businesses are reminding people with basements to be alert.

With the soggy ground and more rainfall, water is expected to get into many basements during the next few days.

Owner Rob Kochon of Magna-Dry said people with basements should have sump pumps.

"You need to check it periodically to see if it is running properly," he said Tuesday.

"Make sure the water is running away from the house. Check the downspouts."

He said the sump pumps also should have backup batteries with alarms in case power goes out.

For more see the Wednesday edition of the *Journal & Courier*.

FEMA opens recovery centers for January flood victims

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security will open several Disaster Recovery Centers Wednesday in Carroll, Jasper, White and two other counties for victims of the January floods.

The centers are in response to President Bush's declaration last week that Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe and White counties suffered major disasters.

For more see the Wednesday edition of the *Journal & Courier*.

Prophetstown bill passes House, assigned to Senate committee

A bill that would increase funding for the Prophetstown State Park and a state Native American organization has been assigned to an Indiana Senate committee Tuesday after passing the House.

Both state Sens. Brandt Hershman, R-Wheatfield, and Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, are senate sponsors of House Bill 1250, which passed the Indiana House Jan.30. However, Hershman is waiting to hear more feedback from the public before supporting the bill.

Hershman, a Republican whose district encompasses parts of Tippecanoe County, said he sponsored the bill in the Senate to continue discussion of the issue.

For more see the Wednesday edition of the *Journal & Courier*.

Physical appearance affects pay and promotions

While we'd all like to believe that in the workplace we're judged by our skills and abilities, the truth is that the same thing that often influences all areas of our lives - our physical appearance - also is often one of the most important factors. Read more in Wednesday's Relate section.

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Greater Lafayette swamped ... again

By JOE LARSON

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and CURT SLYDER

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Rain and melting snow Tuesday threatened to drive the Tippecanoe River from its banks for the second time this year, forcing some White and Carroll county residents to once again evacuate their homes.

Sara Gregory stood about 100 yards away from her house on Horseshoe Bend Road in Carroll County Tuesday morning, watching as floodwaters that had invaded her home about a month ago were trying to do so again.

"We don't have anything to lose," she said, "because we lost it all the first time."

Including rain and melted snow, most of Greater Lafayette received 1 1/2 to 2 inches of precipitation between Thursday and Tuesday afternoon, according to weather observers who report to the National Weather Service.

Another 1 to 3 inches of rain was expected Tuesday night, according to meteorologist Ashley Brooks of the National Weather Service. The average monthly precipitation for Tippecanoe County in February is 1.5 inches.

Emergency officials called for the evacuation of areas along the Tippecanoe River in Carroll and White counties Tuesday morning, but in some places there weren't many residents left to warn.

"We don't have nearly the evacuation (size of last time) because most people aren't back in their homes right now," said Gordon Cochran, White County's emergency management director.

By 7 p.m. Tuesday, shortly before the next wave of rain was expected to hit the area, the floodgates at the Oakdale Dam were releasing about 18,900 cubic feet of water per second, Cochran said.

According to the United States Geological Survey, that puts it in the moderate flood stage, which lies between 18,000 and 22,000 cubic feet per second. During the January flood, peak outflow was above 31,000 cubic feet per second.

The flooding Tuesday night was expected to be less severe than January flooding in White and Carroll counties, according to the National Weather Service. But Mark Kirby, director of the Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency, wasn't sure the Lafayette area would be so lucky.

"I personally think it's going to come close to (being as bad as the flooding in January) in Tippecanoe County," Kirby said.

The National Weather Service predicted Tuesday that the Wabash River will crest at midnight Thursday at 25.1 feet. The moderate flood stage begins at 20 feet, and the major flood stage begins at 25 feet.

If the Wabash River does reach 25.1 feet, it would be 3 feet higher than its crest in January.

As the waters rose, Carroll and White county authorities began calling for evacuations along the Tippecanoe River Tuesday morning.

Most people in areas likely to flood were able to evacuate themselves, according to Dave McDowell, Carroll County's emergency management director. But a limited number had to be brought out by boats, mostly right below the Oakdale Dam.

For many living in the affected area, the rain and melting snow couldn't have come at a worse time.

Debbie Warf said the water was closing in on her Horseshoe Bend home Tuesday morning. She and her son removed all the new furniture, including a bed and kitchen appliances, that had just replaced those destroyed in the last flood.

"We had just started putting walls back up and now this again," Warf said. "We were just moving back in. I'm not going to lose it all again."

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round of flooding hits, expect more

By CURT SLYDER
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As floodwaters continued to rise, and Tippecanoe and surrounding counties stayed on point for widespread flood warnings, it was clear this morning that familiarity does breed contempt.

"We're a little more used to what's going on, but it's no more fun and no more amusing," Dave McDowell, director of the Carroll County Emergency Management Agency, said this morning.

A month after floodwaters from the Tippecanoe River, the Wabash River and assorted streams ravaged a nine-county region, evacuated homeowners and emergency crews were dealing with another round of major flooding.

The worst of it could still be coming.

Near Monticello at 10 a.m. today, the Norway Dam operator was reporting a flow of 22,145 cubic feet per second from the dam's floodgates. At the same time, the Oakdale Dam had a flow of 25,619 cubic feet per second. Both dams are on the Tippecanoe River.

According to the National Weather Service, a major flood stage begins with flow exceeding 22,000 cubic feet per second.

During the January flood, peak outflow at Oakdale was above 31,000 cubic feet per second.

All that - along with more rain or snow in today's forecast, heavy rains over the last two days and

a rapid snowmelt on Monday - doesn't bode well for areas downstream along the Tippecanoe and Wabash rivers.

Emergency officials throughout the area were preparing for more flooding today.

"This will be the worst flooding we've had since January 2005 on the Wabash," said Mark Kirby, Tippecanoe County Emergency Management director.

Benton County officials put the county under a level one warning this morning until noon today. That meant travel on county roads was restricted to emergency personnel only. That warning was downgraded to a level two emergency warning. That allows only essential travel, including to and from work, to obtain medication or to seek shelter.

Homes flooded along the Tippecanoe River during the January floods are getting a second round of problems.

"Not as many people are displaced this time," McDowell said. "We moved two people from the flood zone yesterday. Most of the people were out already from the earlier flooding."

Downstream, Kirby and other Tippecanoe County officials were keeping their eyes on the Wabash. The National Weather Service is predicting a crest of 25.1 feet in Lafayette sometime Thursday night, Kirby said. With more rain or snow in the forecast today, "It wouldn't surprise me to see them bump that up some more," he said.

As of this morning, the Wabash River was at 21.01 feet. Flood stage is 11 feet.

If the Wabash River does crest at 25.1 feet, that would exceed the July 2003 flood, when the river crested at 25.05 feet. It would then become the biggest Wabash River flooding in Lafayette since February 1959's crest of 25.3 feet.

According to the National Weather Service, if the Wabash reaches 24 feet, low commercial, industrial and residential areas of Lafayette and West Lafayette would begin to flood. This includes Levee Plaza and Williamsburg apartments. Businesses along Canal and Sycamore streets in Lafayette would also begin to flood. Evacuations would be necessary from river cabins, residences along North River Road near Wabash Valley Hospital, and North 9th Street. North River Road, Happy Hollow Road and North River Road would flood.

Kirby expects the flood to affect properties along those areas as well as Fort Ouiatenon, Wabash Avenue and possibly others before it's through.

"People should start preparing now for at least a 25-foot crest on the Wabash," Kirby said.

There's also some concern about debris in the river, Kirby said. A lot of material stacked in yards outside homes that were flooded along the Tippecanoe River last month "has been picked up and will be heading our way," he said.

That could create some hazards for rescue workers who might need to be in the water if rescues become necessary, Kirby said.

The Northern Indiana Public Service Company, which operates the Norway and Oakdale dams, declared a flood emergency for dams this morning. A flood emergency occurs when the water flow rate reaches 22,000 cubic feet per second.

"While NIPSCO operates the dams, they are not flood-control devices," said Nick Meyer, communications manager for NIPSCO. "Throughout the flooding the dams have operated as designed releasing water through the floodgates."

Contributing: Max Showalter/mshowalter@journalandcourier.com

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Flood update: dams, counties under flood emergencies

STAFF REPORTS

White County is under a flood emergency this morning as are both dams along the Tippecanoe River as heavy rain over the last two days mixed with rapid snow melt are producing flood conditions throughout the area.

According to the Carroll County Sheriff's Department, at 6 a.m. the Norway Dam operator was reporting a flow of 21,967 cubic feet per second from the dam's floodgates. At the same time, the Oakdale Dam had a flow of 23,002 cubic feet per second.

According to the National Weather Service, that puts the Oakdale Dam in the major flood stage, with flow exceeding 22,000 cubic feet per second.

During the January flood, peak outflow at Oakdale was above 31,000 cubic feet per second.

According to the NWS, major flooding is happening along the Tippecanoe River downstream from the Oakdale Dam.

At 5 a.m., the Wabash River in Lafayette had reached 18.35 feet. Flood stage is 11 feet. The river is expected to crest at around 25 feet Thursday night.

Additional light rain will fall throughout the area today. Because of the very wet conditions, discharge from the Oakdale Dam will likely increase slowly throughout the day, the NWS said.

But flood flows are not expected to reach January flood levels.

Benton County officials put the county under a level one warning this morning until further notice. That means travel on county roads is restricted to emergency personnel only.

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Flood update: More wet weather forecast today

STAFF REPORTS

Rain showers are likely in the Lafayette area until 1 p.m. today, but the rainfall will only amount to about a tenth of an inch, according to the National Weather Service.

However, later today a mix of snow and sleet will likely begin to fall leading to less than an inch of accumulation. The high temperature will reach near 37 and a low around 23.

For Thursday and Friday temperatures will range from a low of 26 at night to a high of 40 during the day. There is a chance of rain for those two days as well.

This morning, the NWS issued a flood warning for several Greater Lafayette areas that will expire at 4:15 a.m. Thursday.

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Flood update: Travel restricted on Benton County roads

STAFF REPORTS

Benton County is under a Level 1 declared emergency this morning, meaning travel on county roads is restricted to emergency personnel.

Randy Kitterman, Benton County's emergency management director, reported that nearly 3 inches of rain over the past 36 hours has resulted in high water in numerous locations. Water is over the roads in hundreds of isolated areas.

He said water has receded in some areas and is rising in others.

Benton Community and Tri-County schools have been canceled today because of the travel restrictions.

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Flood update: Tippecanoe County flooding to worsen

STAFF REPORTS

As of 5 this morning, the Wabash River in Lafayette was at 18.35 feet, well above flood stage of 11 feet.

According to Mark Kirby, Tippecanoe County's Emergency Management director, it's expected to get a lot worse.

The National Weather Service is predicting a crest of 25.1 feet sometime Thursday night, Kirby said. With more rain or snow in the forecast today, "It wouldn't surprise me to see them bump that up some more," he said.

"This will be the worst flooding we've had since January 2005 on the Wabash," he said.

In January 2005, the river crested at 25.03 feet.

If the Wabash River does crest at 25.1 feet, that would exceed the July 2003 flood, too, when the river crested at 25.05 feet. It would then become the biggest Wabash River flooding in Lafayette since February 1959's crest of 25.3 feet.

According to the National Weather Service, if the Wabash reaches 24 feet, low commercial, industrial and residential areas of Lafayette and West Lafayette would begin to flood. This includes Levee Plaza merchants and Williamsburg apartments. Businesses along Canal and Sycamore streets in Lafayette would also begin to flood. Evacuations would be necessary from river cabins, residences along North River Road near Wabash Valley Hospital, and North 9th

Street. North River Road, Happy Hollow Road and North River Road would flood.

Kirby expects the flood to affect properties along those areas as well as Fort Ouiatenon, Wabash Avenue and possibly others before it's through.

"People should start preparing now for at least a 25 foot crest on the Wabash," he said.

There's also some concern about debris in the river, he said. A lot of material stacked in yards outside homes that were flooded along the Tippecanoe River last month "has been picked up and will be heading our way," he said.

That could create some hazards for rescue workers who might need to be in the water if rescues become necessary, he said.

As for right now, Kirby is concerned about motorists attempting to drive through high water. Right now "it's the biggest threat I'm seeing," he said. If anyone sees a high water sign, "by all means, turn around."

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Flood update: Carroll County used to it, but 'it's no fun'

STAFF REPORTS

Dave McDowell, director of the Carroll County Emergency Management Agency, describes today as, "The second day of the second flood of 2008."

The Tippecanoe River is out of its banks, but last month's flooding has lessened some of the impact of the rushing waters.

"We're a little more used to what's going on, but it's no more fun and no more amusing," said McDowell. "A lot of roads are washed out and closed. I haven't received a complete list from the sheriff's department yet."

"Not as many people are displaced this time. We moved two people from the flood zone yesterday. Most of the people were out already from the earlier flooding."

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Flood update: Delphi flood shelter closes, stays on standby

STAFF REPORTS

The Red Cross shelter for flood victims has been closed at First Presbyterian Church in Delphi.

"On Tuesday, we had 10 come in and none of them stayed overnight," said Chris Brady of the Tippecanoe Chapter of the American Red Cross.

"If we get any calls that people need a place to stay, we will go back and open it up. We are on standby."

Brady is the new emergency services director. She replaces Melissa Axley, who moved to Georgia.

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Carroll County Declares Flood Emergency

Updated: Feb 5, 2008 08:34 PM EST

Carroll County has declared a Flood Emergency, as of Tuesday afternoon. Tuesday's flooding has been especially hard on those trying to recover from last month's flooding.

Many Tecumseh Bend residents say they are frustrated with this latest round of flooding. Many people were just starting to move back in and make repairs to their homes, when they got the call early this morning that they needed to evacuate again. "It's unfortunate that a lot of people have already started building their homes and their lives back together again and now the rugs being yanked back out from under our feet again," said homeowner Phil Bartlett.

Along the Tippecanoe River, insulation, plywood, and sheet rock are scattered in the water. Homeowner Sue Dexter says last month's flood nearly destroyed her home, and now her rebuilding supplies are gone too. "We had everything approved. We had a building permit approved, we had reimbursement from our insurance we were ready to have the contract written Tuesday which we're not going to do now," said Dexter.

Phil Bartlett says his family has been staying with relatives for nearly a month, and were almost ready to move back in to their home. Now, they aren't sure what will happen. "We have two young children who say, when are we going home and we still have to tell them our house is broke that's about the only way we can explain to them what's going on," said Bartlett.

"We want to get this all behind us and go back to where we were before January the 8th and here it is February the 5th and we're starting it all over again," said Dexter.

People needing shelter are welcome at the Red Cross emergency shelter at the First Presbyterian Church in Delphi. It's located on South Indiana Street. Those needing evacuation from flooded areas should call 911 or contact the Sheriff's Department at (765)564-2413.

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Officials warn of flooding as rivers continue to rise

Associated Press - February 6, 2008 12:24 PM ET

COVINGTON, Ind. (AP) - The National Weather Service is warning residents along the Wabash River to watch for flooding over the next two or three days.

The Wabash could rise to its highest level since January 2005. Hydrologist Al Shipe says significant flooding could occur between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

Up to three inches of rain and melting snow are causing flooding problems in some of the same areas of Indiana hit hard by flooding last month.

Fountain County emergency management officials were warning residents along the Wabash River that if the level continues to rise they may have to evacuate.

Officials in Carroll and White counties also urged people along the Tippecanoe to voluntarily evacuate their homes.

Several state roads are closed due to high water.

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Area watches, prepares for flooding

Brian Evans - Feb. 5th, 2008

LIMA — With much of the high water that covered numerous local roadways earlier Tuesday slowly trickling down into surrounding rivers and streams, the area's usual suspects are on the rise, once again.

And, with more rain expected today, things could get worse in and around these problem rivers and streams.

Mike Skipper, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Northern Indiana Office, said the greater Allen County area received 2 inches of rain in some areas and more, or less, in others by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

To make things worse, he said the area could expect up to 2 more inches of rain by the end of the day today.

By Tuesday afternoon, Skipper said all the area's rivers were at or near flood stage.

Additionally, he said, the entire multicounty region was under at least a flood watch until 7 a.m. today.

The Blanchard River, Skipper said, was under an aerial flood warning and it is expected to crest at more than 2 feet above flood stage in Findlay by 7 a.m. today.

"We've got heavy rainfall on the way," Skipper said. "It looks like it could be getting worse."

The Auglaize River in Fort Jennings, he said, is expected to crest at 16 feet by 7 p.m. Wednesday, which is 3 feet above the flood stage.

Emergency responders in Allen County said Tuesday evening they hadn't experienced any problems throughout the day, but more rain could change that. High waters were reported on numerous roads earlier in the day, but most had subsided by later in the afternoon.

Officials warn residents to stay out of the water because of the high risk of hypothermia this time of year.

"Flooding is not confined to one area; it's everywhere in the county," said Rick Tice, a dispatcher at the Allen County Sheriff's Office. "But it sounds like it is starting to subside. Everything is passable and we haven't had any problems due to the water yet."

Although they could not provide a specific level with respect to the flood stage, officials at the Lima Wastewater Treatment Plant said the Ottawa River was unusually high by later Tuesday afternoon and the sewer level was at 100 percent capacity.

In Bluffton, Police Chief Rick Skilliter said officials there were watching the Riley Creek closely, which, like the Blanchard in Findlay and Ottawa, was the source of serious flooding in August.

"The creek is above its banks," he said. "Any more rain will put it on the roads. ... If we get the rain they predict, that will do it. The ground is frozen. There's nowhere for the water to go."

Skilliter said they were also making preparations for early notifications, especially for residents living near the river.

"If we have to evacuate, we'll certainly do that," he said.

Skilliter also said they are making arrangements to put up barricades. He said high water had already reached the local football field and some of the local parks Tuesday afternoon.

In Putnam County, officials said the flooding was affecting only a few roads by Tuesday afternoon. However, with the threat of more rain, the threat of flooding appeared worse in Hancock County, where authorities braced for the worse.

County officials met with Findlay city officials Tuesday afternoon to discuss pending weather predictions and make plans for emergency operations in the event of flooding.

With the predicted 1 to 1.5 inches of rain expected overnight, officials there expected the Blanchard to crest at 14.2 feet by 7 a.m. today.

Once the river hits flood stage, which is 12 feet, the city planned to activate its emergency call center.

Findlay Mayor Pete Sehnert reported Tuesday the city was preparing for major flooding.

"People with interests in low-lying areas of Findlay should monitor later forecasts," the mayor reported. "This flooding should be similar to the January 2007 flooding in Findlay when the Blanchard River crested at 14.78 feet."

By early Friday morning, Steve Odenweller, director Putnam County Office of Public Safety, said the Blanchard River could get as high as 24 feet in Putnam County, which is 1 foot above flood stage.

"But that's without anything else happening," Odenweller said. "The water is coming up pretty quick, which we expected, but I thought it would be higher."

The National Weather Service's advanced hydrologic prediction service indicated Tuesday afternoon the Blanchard could crest at up to 26.4 feet by early Friday morning in Ottawa, which would put it near the bottom of the bridge at the gauge site and along South Walnut and West Second streets on the south side of town. During the August flood, the river crested at 31.7 feet, according to the weather service.

"Hopefully it comes as snow, if we get any precipitation," he said. "That slows this process down. With the ground being saturated, there's not a lot room for it to go anywhere. ... We're watching things right now, seeing if we have things available, sandbags available, if need be."

By Tuesday afternoon, Odenweller said, the river was at 17.5 feet.

In Hardin, Van Wert, Auglaize, Mercer counties, authorities reported some flooded roadways but said conditions were improving.

Officials in those counties reported no significant problems.

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Herald Journal

Flood waters return

Overnight rains, melting snow force evacuations along Tippecanoe River.

Kevin Howell

Reporter

For the second time in just shy of a month flood warnings and potential evacuation alerts have been issued for residents along the Tippecanoe River.

January 8 floods left many residents displaced and for the past three weeks in the process of rebuilding water damaged homes.

On Tuesday morning, those still remaining along the river were met with the renewed threat of floods caused by overnight rains, melting snow and saturated half-frozen ground unable to absorb more moisture.

At about 6 a.m. water was running over Norway Dam above Monticello, and the Oakdale Dam in Carroll County at a little more than 11,000 cubic feet per second. By 10 a.m. the flow was approaching double that rate according to White County Emergency Management Director Gordon Cochran.

"At 10 a.m. Oakdale was at 20,347, and Norway was at 17,340," said Cochran. "It's coming up fast, and for the people who are still out (of their homes) from the last flood, it's probably a good thing they're out."

Later Tuesday evening, Cochran reported that levels at Norway had increased to over 18,000 cubic feet per second, and over 21,000 at Oakdale Dam.

"At 22,000 you go into a total flood emergency," said Cochran, noting that the additional 1-3 inches of rain predicted for the area overnight would likely make the emergency a reality.

For emergency workers though, Cochran said it's not a good thing.

"It's bad for first responders, we still have to go house to house because we don't know who is there and who isn't," Cochran said.

In addition to Cochran's crew, Indiana State Police, Carroll County Sheriff's deputies, Monticello Police, fire personnel, and Department of Natural Resources conservation officers were keeping an eye on rising waters.

"We've had officers up and down both sides of the river issuing flood warnings," said Carroll County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Hammond.

Hammond and other law enforcement personnel were on alert at Oakdale. He said residents in about five homes had stuck it out through the first flood and would likely sit tight again, but there would be fewer residents in general to evacuate this time if it became necessary.

While Carroll County Highway workers like Scott Atkisson blocked road entrances on either side of the Oakdale Bridge with dump trucks, Indiana State Police Sgt. Dan Ziegler was monitoring the situation.

"We're just monitoring it right now and suggesting that people get to higher ground," said Ziegler.

"As the day goes on we anticipate that it will get worse, but so far we're doing pretty good."

Cochran noted that weather reports called for an inch and a half to two inches of rain Tuesday afternoon and night, and changing to snow later.

Conservation Officer Todd Pekny was also on standby at Oakdale.

"I'm going to get the boat and I'll stand by at the (boat launch) in case. Carroll County (Sheriff's Office) is getting their boat ready as well," said Pekny.

In Monticello, police, fire and DNR personnel had launched boats at Bluewater Beach and headed upstream to the Diamond Point/Brandywine areas below Norway Dam to issue evacuation alerts and check on any remaining residents.

"They're going over some of the residents at Diamond Point where they got flooded before and just trying to stay on top of it," said Assistant Fire Chief Mike Ott. "But a lot of people are still gone."

Two fire department boats had been launched from Bluewater to check the area upstream, Ott said. But this time there was plenty of warning, and more daylight than the Jan. 8 flood.

Because of those better conditions, Ott said, "Most of the people left on their own."

Monticello Police Chief Curt Blount said so far, at about 10 a.m., no one in town had been evacuated.

"I walked through (Bluewater area) and let those still left here know that the water was rising, and there would be a possible evacuation if need be," said Blount.

Because some residents have begun repair and rebuilding of flood damaged homes, new materials and construction tools have been on site at residences.

"Right now they're just getting construction equipment out," said Blount.

Cochran said just in case, shelters have been opened again at Liberty Township Fire Department in Buffalo, and the Christian Center on West Shafer Drive between the Delta Cone and Indiana Beach.

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Herald Journal

Lake levels to be lowered

Water levels to be brought down to help clean up debris.

Doug Howard

Reporter

After watching the Tippecanoe River climb over its banks in early January, a group of organizations tasked with managing the river have a plan to see it drawn down for some spring cleaning starting in April.

"I'd like to see this as a community clean up type of thing," said Daryl Johns, executive director of the Shafer Freeman Lakes Environmental Conservation Corporation (SFLECC), the organization that owns the land under and the shore fronts surrounding Lakes Shafer and Freeman.

The draw down plan grew out of a meeting between NIPSCO, which controls the Norway and Oakdale hydroelectric dams, the SFLECC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

"It was agreed by all parties that this would be a good time to check out the flood damage," said Johns.

"We (the SFLECC) are concerned about safety issues this spring, when the boating season starts," he said. "We feel like there's a lot of debris just sitting underneath the water that could pose a hazard, so we want to try to get those things either marked or removed during this draw down period."

The plan is to first lower Lake Freeman by three feet by April 12, followed the next weekend on April 17 by a further three feet draw down. That will be followed by a three foot draw down on Lake Shafer by April 26, then an additional three drop there by May 1.

"The first week, the three foot draw down is going to allow us and other people - volunteers, I hope - to go out actually in the water and retrieve some of that debris, and/or mark it," said Johns.

"Then next weekend, the six foot draw down will allow us to not only get some of the stuff maybe up out of the lake bed, but allow people to straighten up their boat lifts and shore stations and things like that," said Johns.

"We'll be putting three to four dumpsters on each lake during this period of time so people have a place to drop off material," he said. "We know there's going to be some boat lifts and shore stations and other things found and we'll try to make a list of those and get them matched up to the owners."

Johns said as the dates draw closer, locations for the dumpsters will be posted on the SFLECC's Web site, www.sflecc.com.

As is often the case with any activity on the lakes, the weather will be the deciding factor in the project.

"All this depends on how much water (NIPSCO) have to work with, on how fast they're lowered and how fast they're raised back up," he said. "And if we get some heavy rains during this period of time, which is very possible, then none of this will take place."

Even during the lowered window, "We want to caution everybody not to leave equipment down in the lake, overnight or anything, because if we get a heavy rain, (NIPSCO) has got to let (the water level) go - it's gonna raise."

For its part, the DNR will use the time to conduct a study on mussel populations on the lakes.

"They didn't want us to move the dates up any further into March," said Johns, "because the mussels then would be exposed, and they are afraid it would freeze and kill them out."

Starting any later, he said, would interfere with the beginning of the boating and tourism season.

"That's the window that everybody agreed to, and if doesn't happen during that window, it probably won't happen. Maybe we could try it again this fall."

Johns said the SFLECC will be sending out a mass mailing to all SFLECC shorefront license holders to notify them of the dates. "Each homeowner pays \$50 a year for the upkeep," explained John Shellcrosslee, president of the SFLECC's governing board. "And we use those numbers for our operational expenses, et cetera, and for the cleanup. The dredging that we're doing is a different funding - that comes from state grants. We hold those in different accounts."

Since the Jan. 8 flooding began, the SFLECC has compiled a list of items reported missing and has served as a sort of clearing house, putting owners in touch with the finders of lost buoys, boats, and docks.

"The people that have found items, we're asking them to tie them off or hold onto them," said Johns. "Then when we get calls of something that's been lost, then we can try to match it up, we ask that person to contact the person that found it. Then they can describe it and make that it's indeed theirs."

Some of the other items found or reported missing include furniture, fuel tanks and jet skis, to name a few. Only a few items have been reconciled with their owners.

"Some of them, I'm sure, are at the bottom of the lake," said Shellcrosslee.

The bottom of the lake is also the site of the SFLECC's silt dredging operations, and later this year the organization plans on conducting a bathometric study to help determine if January's floods undid some of that work, particularly on Lake Shafer.

"We don't know, but we're fearful, that maybe a lot of silt has come back in," said Shellcrosslee.

"We might have to go back up there and do some more work, unfortunately. When you have as much water run off, coming out of the various tributaries into the lake, as you can imagine, there's a lot silt coming in there, as well. Hopefully, with force of the water, that went straight through. But it's hard to say."

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Winter rainstorms could mean flooding

By RICK YENCER
ryencer@muncie.gannett.com

MUNCIE -- High water in low-lying areas could turn to possible flooding, depending on how hard it rains in East Central Indiana this morning.

"We are not sure who will see the highest amounts," said Dave Tucek, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

More than an inch of rain fell in Delaware County after a strong thunderstorm swept through central and northern Indiana on Tuesday morning. By midday, the rain had returned with a chance of 1-2 more inches by today, according to the NWS.

High water signs were visible on some Jay County roads, as well as some spots in Muncie at McGalliard Road and Elgin Street, and along West Memorial Drive, east of Tillotson Avenue.

The White River rose over seven feet Tuesday afternoon and was projected to crest near nine feet by today, according to the NWS forecast.

Muncie sewer maintenance crews were busy Tuesday clearing storm drain inlets blocked by leaves and other debris that causes high water along some streets. The Muncie Sanitary District suggests residents help by clearing inlets near their homes.

Steve Ballman, who directs sewer maintenance, said two more inches of rain would cause problems and require flood protection measures.

The NWS started to track heavier rain south of Muncie and Anderson Tuesday night, however, that could cause ECI to dodge the third major winter storm during the past week.

Muncie missed an eight-inch snow last Thursday that fell in Lafayette and a tornado that hit the west side of Indianapolis last Tuesday.

The NWS forecasts snow flurries tonight along with colder temperatures through the end of the week. Contact news reporter Rick Yencer at 213-5833.

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Flood warning still in effect locally

THE STAR PRESS

MUNCIE — The National Weather Service has extended an earlier flood warning for small streams in counties including Delaware, Henry, Madison and Randolph counties until 4:15 a.m. Thursday.

Severity forecast levels for river flooding have also been increased from minor to moderate for the Salamonie River affecting Blackford and Jay counties and the Maumee River affecting Henry County,

Small creeks and streams across Central Indiana continue to rise due to runoff from heavy rains.

Streams will rise slowly; flash flooding is not expected, according to the NWS.

The White River in Muncie was measured at 9.47 feet as of 7 a.m. today; flood stage is 9 feet. The NWS expects the river in Muncie to crest around 10 feet later today.

The Mississinewa River near Ridgeville was at 13.8 feet at 4 a.m. today, above flood stage of 11 feet and moderate stage of 13 feet.

Drivers should avoid driving into areas where water covers the roadway.

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Rain causes some flooding locally

By RICK YENCER
ryencer@muncie.gannett.com

MUNCIE — East Central Indiana dodged another major storm as overnight rain caused flooding in only low-lying areas.

Delaware, Blackford and Jay counties had multiple reports of county roads and some highways under water over night like Ind. 26 east of Hartford City, and Ind. 1 near Redkey.

There were no reports of injury or major property damage from rising water from the White or Mississinewa rivers, according to local and state police. There were several reports of cars stuck in high water in Blackford and Delaware counties.

None of the flash flooding was outside low-lying areas, according to Bill Gosnell, who directs Delaware County's Emergency Management Agency.

The EMA reported an average of 1.5 inches of rain fell in the county during the last 24 hours, that included heavy thunderstorms Tuesday morning and more rain through today.

The White River rose to 10.2 feet by mid-morning today according to the National Weather Service and was expected to crest by early afternoon.

The rising water did not require flood gates to be installed downtown, according to Steve Ballman, director of the Muncie Sanitary District's sewer maintenance.

"The river is not out of control," said Ballman, who anticipated no problems as rain is expected to turn to snow flurries tonight.

More powerful thunderstorms moved through southern Indiana overnight, blowing off roofs, and knocking down power lines in Putnam, Greene, and Vermillion counties., according to NWS reports.

That was part of a system that produced tornados that ripped through several southern states, killing at least 44 people.

(For more on this story, check www.thestarpress.com and Thursday's print edition of The Star Press.)

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High water prompts voluntary evacuations in 2 Indiana counties

By The Associated Press | Tuesday, February 05, 2008 |

DELPHI, Ind. | Some residents of two northern Indiana counties evacuated their homes along the Tippecanoe River for the second time in less than a month Tuesday after melting snow and heavy rains again threatened to inundate their homes.

Heavy overnight rains prompted officials to open the floodgates on Carroll County's Oakdale Dam, releasing water at a rate of more than 18,000 cubic feet per second, authorities said.

They asked people residing downstream of the dam to leave their homes voluntarily, said Director Dave McDowell of Carroll County Emergency Management.

"We began warning some of the residents early last evening when we got word from the National Weather Service that we were going to have lots of rain," McDowell said. "Early this morning Carroll County sheriff's deputies began driving up and down the roads waking people up with sirens and public address announcements."

McDowell said many people had remained out of their homes since the flooding that began four weeks ago. Those floods have been blamed for the deaths of three people, including two children, and more than \$33 million in damage to hundreds of homes.

President Bush last week declared a federal disaster area in nine counties: Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe and White.

In White County on Tuesday, emergency officials were calling for the evacuation of Diamond Point downstream of the Norway Dam due to rising floodwaters.

The American Red Cross set up evacuation centers in Delphi and Monticello.

Many residents still recovering and rebuilding from the January floods faced the threat of high water again, although officials did not expect it to be as severe.

Donna Marshall, who lives just below Oakdale Dam, told the Journal & Courier of Lafayette that she had nightmares overnight after seeing flash flood warnings on television.

"I didn't sleep good. ... I kept thinking I was hearing water under the house. Of course, I didn't," Marshall said. "I didn't realize how much the last one affected me. I kept thinking we were going to get swept off."

Authorities in several other northern Indiana counties closed roads due to high water. Flood warnings and watches were issued for much of the state due to storms that were expected to bring heavy rains.

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, meanwhile, said Tuesday it had received federal approval to issue emergency food stamps to residents of the nine counties that suffered major losses in the January flooding. Potentially eligible were all residents affected by the disaster, including people not currently receiving state assistance.

Local state Offices of Family resources in those counties were taking applications.

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bcdemocrat.com

Wednesday, February 06, 2008

Health officials seek input on food ordinance

Wednesday, February 06, 2008

Health officials are seeking input from local food retailers and establishments on an updated Brown County Food Ordinance, with hopes of collecting suggestions and comments before rules are put in place.

Sharon Modglin, with the health department's Food Protection Program, distributed the proposed ordinance by e-mail on January 24 to various food establishments and bed-and-breakfast businesses.

"This is the time to voice concerns, make comments or suggestions before the food code is officially adopted," she wrote as explanation.

According to environmental health specialist John Kennard, soliciting comments came from a suggestion by county commissioner Bill Austin, who wants to see how local restaurateurs feel about posting their health inspection reports prominently for the public to see. This is the main difference in the proposed ordinance.

"We've never done that before," he said of requesting suggestions before code is approved. "We've had no feedback so far."

Besides the inspection requirement, the code combines regular restaurant requirements with those of bed-and-breakfast establishments.

"There's really no major changes, just massaged to make it more in line with state code," Mr. Kennard said. "The state wants the county ordinances to get more in line with their format and their definitions... what they'd like to see, if possible, is everybody have the same ordinance, but that's not going to work."

Mr. Kennard noted that Brown County has special events, such as motorcycle competitions, music festivals and other happenings, as well as many bed-and-breakfast businesses that are not issues in other counties, so having similar rules would be irrelevant.

Highlights of the ordinance:

- Anyone wishing to operate a food establishment or bed and breakfast must have a permit from the health officer and that permit must be displayed in a conspicuous location in the business.
- Mobile and temporary food establishments are not allowed within town limits, except those from not-for-profit organizations, according to Mr. Kennard. Temporary eateries are allowed at such locations as Bill Monroe Memorial Music Park, the Brown County 4-H Fairgrounds and similar gathering spots.
- The owner or an authorized person must submit for the health department's approval all plans and specifications before construction, conversion of an existing structure or remodeling of a food establishment.
- When a business changes ownership, the health department may either renew or issue a new permit after receiving and approving a completed application.
- A food establishment must pay a permit fee to the health department in order to operate, unless the permit is held by an organization exempt from income tax laws and offers food at an event that is a

benefit for the organization. Proof of the tax exemption may be requested by the health officer.

- The health department has a right to inspect a food establishment or bed-and-breakfast business, utilizing a system of risk-based inspections. Temporary establishments may also be inspected.
- More frequent inspections may be performed if an establishment has had past performance violations that are critical or non-critical; numerous or repeat violations that are non-critical; complaints investigated and found to be valid; exhibit hazards associated with the way particular foods are prepared, stored or served; based on the number of people served, and whether the population served is highly susceptible.
- After the inspection, the health official will provide a copy of the completed report and a notice to correct any violations.
- Refusing to sign the report does not relieve the operator of his responsibility to correct the offense, however, a note will be made in the report for historical record.
- The inspection reports are public documents and will be made available to any person who requests it.
- Permits may be revoked or suspended for noncompliance or if an imminent health hazard exists. The health department must be notified if a business ceases operating because of an emergency health hazard, such as fire, flood, electrical or water service issue, sewage backup, misuse of poisonous or toxic materials, onset of a foodborne illness outbreak, gross unsanitary condition or circumstance that may endanger public health.
- In case of violations, at varying degrees, the proposal provides for enforcement by manner of tickets, administrative review or court proceedings instigated by the county attorney or prosecuting attorney, depending upon its civil or criminal nature.

To see a copy of the ordinance and give feedback, contact the Brown County Health Department at 988-2255, P.O. Box 281, Nashville, Indiana, 47448, or bcenvironmental@localhealth.in.gov.

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TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) -- Storms drew a line down the middle of the nation Tuesday, dumping snow to the north, spawning damaging tornadoes to the south and dropping heavy rain on parts of Ohio still recovering from major floods months ago.

High winds, possibly a tornado, collapsed part of the roof and wall of a shopping mall in Memphis, Tenn., slightly injuring some people but trapping or severely injuring no one, said Deputy Police Chief Steve Cole. Other buildings in the area were also damaged.

In Findlay, Ohio, officials warned business owners they should be ready to move if the Blanchard River spilled over into downtown Wednesday. The river, rising about 5 inches an hour Tuesday, was predicted to rise to about 3 feet above flood stage by Wednesday afternoon.

If that happens, flooding will cover many streets and could force evacuations of some neighborhoods, said Jim Barker, the city's safety director.

"One thing in our favor is that a lot of the people who were flooded in August have not returned," said Jim Barker, safety director in this city of about 40,000.

Police planned to put cruisers at all city fire stations in case the floodwaters split the city in half, which is what happened in late August. Neighborhoods were isolated when heavy rains dumped up to 10 inches during a few hours, causing the city's worst flood since 1913.

Damage to city-owned buildings and property was estimated to be as much as \$31 million.

The storms stretched across much of the nation's midsection from Texas to the Great Lakes on a day when voters in many states headed to polls for Super Tuesday primaries. A tornado closed one polling site in Arkansas, but fears of widespread weather-related low turnout proved unfounded.

"It's been a wild night," state emergency management spokesman Tommy Jackson told KATV in Little Rock. "A heck of a way to have elections in Arkansas."

Two confirmed tornadoes in addition to the storm that damaged the Hickory Ridge Mall were reported outside Memphis, emergency officials said. One knocked out a state highway patrol radio tower. No injuries were immediately reported.

Storms also briefly suspended flights at Memphis International Airport, the world's busiest cargo airport.

A tornado touched down in downtown Atkins, northwest of Little Rock, Ark. Officials were trying to assess damage, state emergency management officials said. Twisters were also reported in northern Mississippi, but no injuries were immediately reported.

Storms also briefly suspended flights at Memphis International Airport, the world's busiest cargo airport.

A tornado touched down in downtown Atkins, northwest of Little Rock, Ark. Officials were trying to assess damage, state emergency management officials said. Twisters were also reported in northern Mississippi, but no injuries were immediately reported.

In southwestern Wisconsin, snow was expected to total more than a foot and a half in some southern parts of the state before ending Wednesday afternoon.

The snow triggered a rash of traffic accidents. A woman was killed and four other people injured when a tractor-trailer, two cars and a pickup collided, authorities said.

Much of Iowa braced for more than a foot of snow.

"Roads in the southeast corner of state are already 100 percent snow-covered, and they're not going to get any better," said Brad Small, a National Weather Service forecaster in Des Moines.

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Storms Rip Through Indiana Causing Major Flooding

Wednesday, February 06, 2008

Associated Press

BAINBRIDGE, Ind. —

A powerful line of thunderstorms marched across Indiana, damaging homes, knocking down trees and power lines and tearing the roof off a fire station.

But flooding could cause the most problems throughout the state as the National Weather Service was warning Wednesday that the Wabash, Tippecanoe and other major rivers will spill over their banks.

In Putnam County west of Indianapolis, the storm tore the roof off a fire station in Bainbridge and destroyed its radio tower Tuesday night. Barns and mobile homes also were damaged, along with several utility trailers.

In Greene County, southwest of Bloomington, the sheriff's department said roofs were blown off several houses in Bloomfield. Officers reported a large amount of debris in trees as well as downed trees and power lines. The sheriff's department said the damage resembled that of a tornado.

An 80 mph wind gust was reported in Clinton in Vermillion County. Trees and power lines were reported down in Terre Haute.

The National Weather Service was investigating storm damage in Putnam, Greene, Jackson and Decatur counties to see if any tornadoes touched down. No major injuries were reported.

The storms followed unseasonably high daytime temperatures in the 60s, and were generated by the same system that produced tornadoes that were blamed for nearly 50 deaths in the South.

Rain up to 3 inches and melting snow are causing flooding problems in some of the same areas hit hard last month.

Fountain County emergency management officials went door-to-door warning residents along the Wabash River that if the level continues to rise they may have to evacuate.

"It is a situation that those people in that area should monitor closely in the next two days," said Al Shipe, a hydrologist with the weather service in Indianapolis. "If it does get 2 or 3 feet higher than it did in January, we're looking at significant flooding."

He said the flooding would be the worst between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

The Wabash swelled to just over 22 feet last month, and Shipe said the river would likely crest between 24 and 25 feet. It was approaching 20 feet by late Wednesday morning, he said.

The weather service said the Wabash could reach its highest flood level since January 2005 when it crested at 25.03 feet and that major flooding was expected along the Tippecanoe River.

The Wabash in 2005 broke through levees in at least two places in a rural area south of Terre Haute. In Sullivan County, several residents were flown by helicopter out of their homes because of flood water.

Indiana Conservation Officers were searching a quarry Wednesday for a vehicle that may have plunged into the icy water during the night south of Indiana 24 east of Kentland. Portions of four state roads in northwestern counties were closed due to high water, the state said.

Cresting on many of the rivers will occur over the weekend into next week, the weather service said.

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High water closes area roads

Written by Staff, on 02-06-2008 11:28

Heavy rain fall in recent days has forced the closing of several thoroughfares in the area.



Rising waters along the White River prompted the Indiana Department of Transportation to close Indiana 19 Wednesday between Logan Street and Field Drive.

Ind. 19 connects Noblesville with Cicero, Arcadia and other points to the north, and this section carries about 10,000 vehicles on an average day, according to INDOT.

In addition, Allisonville Road is closed between Wellington Parkway and Westminster Drive.

Other flooded roads closed roads are:

- Riverwood Avenue and Riverwood Drive north of 206th Street
- 166th Street north of Union Chapel
- Edith Avenue and Boulder Drive located north of Potter's Bridge

The National Weather Service anticipates moderate flooding of the White River in Hamilton County to crest Friday afternoon. INDOT's Tipton Subdistrict will continue to monitor Ind. 19, and reopen the road once waters recede, which is currently anticipated for this weekend.

When encountering a flooded roadway, INDOT urges drivers to "Turn around, don't drown." According to the National Weather Service, most flooding deaths occur in automobiles. Six inches of standing water is enough to cause passenger cars to stall and a foot of water will float many vehicles.

Staff report

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Commission short of funds for repairs to Kankakee River levees

By Tiffany Griffin

Story Created: Feb 6, 2008 at 8:19 AM EST

Story Updated: Feb 6, 2008 at 9:40 AM EST

HEBRON, Ind. (AP) — The Kankakee River Basin Commission does not have enough money to pay for repairs to four levees that broke during last month's flooding.

The commission has about \$50,000 to cover such emergencies, but the bills for fixing the levees total about \$85,000, said commission director Jody Melton.

"The river basin has a little money to cover emergencies, but I don't have enough to pay for all these bills. The bills are still coming in," Melton told the Post-Tribune.

He said he had requested help from state and federal agencies, including the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Between 3 and 5 inches of rain fell Jan. 7-8. Two of the river's levees broke in Porter County, both east of Indiana 49. One broke in LaPorte County, east of LaCrosse. The last break, west of Indiana 49 in Jasper County, was about 75 feet wide and caused water to gush into about a square mile of farmland.

The levees have been repaired and should hold even if river levels go up as a result of more rain or snowfall this week, Melton said.

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Plymouth residents watching rivers rise again

by Nora Gathings (hsgathings@wsbt.com)

People in Plymouth put sand bags around their homes again this week after rains caused the Yellow River to rise. (WSBT photo).

By WSBT News1

Story Created: Feb 5, 2008 at 9:58 PM EST

Story Updated: Feb 6, 2008 at 9:07 AM EST

PLYMOUTH — The rain Tuesday night had many people wondering whether their homes will flood again. People in Plymouth haven't even received FEMA money from last month's flood, and they're already preparing for more.

The Yellow River overflowed its banks Tuesday night.

"We don't see the top of it yet. When it starts going across the road here, we have to start preparing to get out," said Marilyn Rowe, who lives near the river.

Homes are finally dry from last month's flood.

"We had about three inches of water in the house -- bedroom, bathroom and living room. We had to take up the carpet and pad that was soaking wet," said Rowe.

"By the time we get stuff back to normal, we have to pull it up again," said Michelle Weldon, another homeowner.

Weldon's basement and foundation were ruined. This time, she isn't taking any chances.

"We still have sandbags from last time," said Weldon. "I'll make sure everything is out this time."

When the Yellow River was at a flood stage last month, it only took a few hours for nearby homes and roads to flood once the rain started falling.

"I knew because the river was getting high," said Weldon.

The river is now at a flood stage and rising, but some people aren't concerned yet.

"If we don't get too much rain tonight and it turns to sleet and snow, we might be OK," said Rowe.

Marshall County Emergency Management has not put any precautionary measures in place. Like many people, they're waiting to see what happens overnight. They say they are ready to step in.

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Commission short of funds to pay for repairs to Kankakee River levees

Associated Press - February 6, 2008 12:14 AM ET

HEBRON, Ind. (AP) - The Kankakee River Basin Commission does not have enough money to pay for repairs to four levees that broke during last month's flooding.

Commission director Jody Melton says the commission has about \$50,000 to cover such emergencies, but the bills total about \$85,000.

He says he's asked for help from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the emergency watershed protection program, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Between 3 and 5 inches of rain fell January 7th and 8th. 2 of the river's levees broke in Porter County, one broke in LaPorte County, and one broke in Jasper County. The levees have been repaired, and Melton says they should hold even if river levels go up as a result of more rain this week.

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Tuesday, February 05, 2008

County Braces For Another Round Of Flooding

Daniel Riordan

Times-Union Staff Writer

Tuesday, February 05, 2008

As some residents continue to recover from flooding in January, a new round of floods may hit the area today.

The National Weather Service issued a flood warning for low-lying areas and streams in Kosciusko County until 12:30 p.m. today.

According to the National Weather Service, the following areas may experience flooding: Claypool, Leesburg, Sidney, Syracuse, Warsaw, Winona Lake, Atwood, Clunette, Etna Green, Monoquet, Oswego, Packerton, Palestine, Sevastopol, Big Barbee Lake, Dewart Lake, Hoffman Lake, Irish Lake, James Lake, Ridinger Lake, Sechrist Lake, Tippecanoe Lake and Lake Wawasee.

Heavy rains from Monday night, combined with melting snow and expected rainfall this afternoon leading into this evening, have increased the chances for flooding.

On top of a flood warning, Kosciusko County, as well as Whitley County, are under a flood watch and, as

of this morning, were under a fog advisory.

Residents around the county saw the effect flooding can have firsthand in January.

Unseasonably warm temperatures following substantial snow and rainfall led to flooding in several areas around Kosciusko County the week of Jan. 7.

Many homes and businesses sustained water damage, and Kosciusko County Emergency Management is still working with home and business owners to receive funding.

To contact Kosciusko County Emergency Management, call 574-371-6203.

For flood-related emergencies, call 911 or Kosciusko County Dispatch at 574-267-5667.

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High Water Soaking Normally Dry Areas

Tim Robertson

Staff Writer

Tuesday, February 05, 2008

Kosciusko County Highway Superintendent Dennis Pletcher told the county commissioners today that flood waters have risen to a new level after heavy rain and high temperatures Monday night.

"We have high water in places we haven't had high water in the past," Pletcher said.

Pletcher said the melting snow, combined with saturated ground throughout most of the county, is causing water to rise.

"We got so much rain and so much snow melt there was no place for the water to go," Pletcher said.

Pletcher said several county roads had been closed and highway crews were at work repairing water damage to several roads. He said the county's water problems won't end when the surface water goes down. He said as the water drains, tiles, ditches, creeks and rivers will likely overflow, flooding areas that are currently dry.

Pletcher said it is likely that Tippecanoe Lake will flood again. Residents in areas prone to flooding should be prepared with clean bottled drinking water and auxiliary heat.

He said with temperatures expected to drop and more precipitation on the way, the county may not have seen the extent of the flooding problem.

"This could turn into something bigger," Pletcher said.

Kosciusko County Emergency Management Director Ed Rock said his department was arranging locations for sandbag distribution. He said county residents in need of sandbags should call the Emergency Management office at 574-267-7888.

Rock said motorists are asked to report flooded roadways. He said motorists who come across flooded roads should call either the county or state highway departments or city street department, depending on what type of road the flooding is on. Motorists should avoid high water and not attempt to drive through it.

In other news:

n County Administrator Ron Robinson said the front area of the county auditor's office will be closed Friday for the installation of new carpet. Robinson also said the back offices of the auditor's office and the county treasurer's office will be closed Feb. 15 for new carpet installation. Robinson said county employees will be on hand on both dates to provide service to the public.

n The commissioners approved members of the Solid Waste District Board as Brad Jackson, Terry A. Howie, John Kinsey, Ron Truex, Ernest B. Wiggins, George Clemens and Robert Conley.

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